

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02338 300931Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /078 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8770

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2338

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV RH US UK

SUBJ: RHODESIA: GRAHAM/LOW CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT

BANDA--BLANTYRE, JUNE 28

1. GRAHAM AND I WITH HIGH COMMISSIONER SCOTT AND CHARGE
SHEINBAUM DISCUSSED RHODESIA FOR ABOUT 45 MINUTES WITH PRESIDENT
BANDA WEDNESDAY MORNING JUNE 1. WE DESCRIBED THE CONTINUING
HIGH LEVEL OF VIOLENCE INSIDE RHODESIA; THE DIFFICULTY OF RUNNING
A CREDIBLE ELECTION, THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING THE PARTIES

TOGETHER IN A CONFERENCE, THE POSITIONS OF SITHOLE, MUZOREWA AND
SMITH TOWARDS IT, THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT LETTING TOO MUCH MORE
TIME PASS BEFORE IT IS CONVENED, AND OUR HOPE THAT HE WOULD
USE HIS INFLUENCE TO ENCOURAGE SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA TOWARDS
SUCH A CONFERENCE. WE ALSO DESCRIBED THE POSSIBLE APPROACHES
TO A CONFERENCE.

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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 02338 300931Z

2. BANDA TOLD US OF HIS LONG INVOLVEMENT IN THE MATTER. HE
DESCRIBED THE PRINCIPAL NATIONALISTS, SAYING THAT MUZOREWA,
SITHOLE AND NKOMO WERE THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT ONES. IF MUGABE
HAD ANY SUPPORT WITHIN THE COUNTRY, HE SAID, IT IS OF RECENT
ORIGIN. BANDA SAID THAT WHILE HE DID NOT AGREE WITH EVERYTHING
WE HAD SAID, HE DID SUPPORT THE IDEA OF AN ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE.

HE SOUNDED REASSURED WHEN WE TOLD HIM THAT WE HAD MADE VERY
CLEAR TO ALL THE PARTIES THE INTERNAL GROUP WOULD COME

TO SUCH A CONFERENCE FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE MARCH 3
AGREEMENT. IT DID NOT HAVE TO ABANDON THAT AGREEMENT PRIOR
TO THE CONFERENCE. WE REPEATED OUR HOPE THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT
ATTENDANCE AT A CONFERENCE WHEN HE ASKED US WHAT MESSAGE WE WANTED
HIM TO CONVEY TO SITHOLE AND NODDED HIS UNDERSTANDING.

3. WE WERE INFORMED IN BLANTYRE THAT SITHOLE WAS EXPECTED
THERE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS ON HIS WAY TO LONDON AND A
EUROPEAN CONFERENCE AND EVENTUALLY KHARTOUM FOR THE OAU.

4. COMMENT: FROM WHAT WE COULD LEARN, BOTH FROM THE BRITISH
HIGH COMMISSIONER WHO HAD SET UP THE MEETING AND FROM BANDA'S
OWN ATTITUDE TOWARDS US, OUR STOPOVER WAS APPRECIATED. BANDA
ASKED US TO COME BACK WHEN WE HAD SOMETHING FURTHER TO REPORT.
WHILE HE DID NOT SAY WHAT HE WOULD CONVEY TO SITHOLE, WE BELIEVE
THAT HE WILL PROBABLY BE HELPFUL. BOTH BRITISH AND AMERICAN
PARTICIPANTS FELT THE EFFORT HAD BEEN WORTHWILE.

LOW

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